

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The configuration of the clinical-result confirming device 100 will be explained below. Fig. 2 is an explanatory diagram of one example of a hardware configuration of the clinical-result confirming device 100. The clinical-result confirming device 100 includes, as its hardware configuration, a CPU 101, a RAM 102, a ROM 103, a hard disk drive (HD) 104, a network interface card (NIC) 105, a video card 106, and a peripheral device interface (I/F) 107. To the peripheral device I/F 107, a mouse 171 and a keyboard 172 are connected. A display (see Fig. 1), such as a CRT and an LCD, is connected to the video card 106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The pattern matching unit 304 matches reference patterns stored in the reference-pattern-group storage unit 301 with the pattern of the previous data input to the previous-data input unit 302. Likewise, the pattern matching unit 304 matches reference patterns stored in the reference-pattern-group storage unit 301 with the pattern of the present data input to the present-data input unit 303.

Specifically, pattern matching is carried out by computing the order of approximation of ~~the most approximate reference pattern~~ to the reference patterns, and selecting the pattern that has the smallest order of approximation. The method of acquiring degree of approximation is not limited as long as the degree of approximation of the most approximate reference pattern is acquired from among the reference patterns that are subject of comparison.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The distance calculator 305 calculates a distance d between a reference pattern A (400a in Fig. 4) approximate to the ~~previous~~ present data and a reference pattern B (400b in Fig. 4) approximate to present data that are selected by the pattern matching unit 304. The distance d is the distance in the reference pattern group 400 on the self organizing map. Alternatively, the distances d between each of the reference patterns in the reference pattern group 400 may be calculated or defined to arrange in a list, so that the distance between selected reference patterns A and B is read from the list.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The previous data is then subjected to data conversion by the standard conversion program as necessary, and is compared with all the reference patterns in the reference pattern group 400 (step S706). The approximation calculation program calculates the order of approximation ~~for the most approximate reference pattern~~ for the reference patterns with respect to the previous data at this pattern collation step, and selects and stores the most approximate reference pattern A (step S707).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 31, and bridging to page 16, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Likewise, the present data is subjected to data conversion by the standard conversion program as necessary, and is compared with all the reference patterns in the reference pattern group 400 (step S708). The approximation calculation program calculates the order of approximation ~~for the most approximate reference pattern~~ for the reference patterns with respect to the present data at the pattern comparison step, and selects and stores the most approximate reference pattern B (step S709).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The clinical-result confirming device 100 can accept a vast amount of clinical examination data input from the automatic blood-cell counter 200. Therefore, plural pieces of clinical examination data may be stored in the ~~HD 142~~ HD 104 so that the reference pattern group 400 is reconstructed using the SOM as necessary. The reference pattern group 400 can be constructed by using appropriate software. The reference pattern group 400 is not limited to image data, and may be waveform data.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the previous data and the present data are both matched with the reference pattern group 400 such as the blood cell size distribution patterns, it is possible to easily and visually confirm the classification of reference patterns and the association of the reference patterns with a predicted case of disease. Changes in the predicted case of disease and examination results can be determined appropriately based on a selection area for the reference patterns in the reference pattern group 400 that are matched with the previous data and the present data, and the frequency of selection in the selection area.